

WOMEN'S FIRE SERVICE EXPO

ANNUAL EVENT ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO VOLUNTEER

THE THIRD ANNUAL Women's Fire Service Expo will be held Saturday, May 31, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. This is an all-day educational event for women who are interested in becoming firefighters. There is no cost for participants.

The Bloomington Fire Department currently has 13 female firefighters. The department has actively recruited female firefighters at the Women's Fire Service Expo and National Night Out, as

well as through open houses and fire prevention activities.

Bloomington Fire Inspector Laura McCarthy said female volunteer firefighters are always encouraged to apply.

"There are many rewards involved with being a volunteer firefighter," McCarthy said. "We are able to help the community, while developing lifelong friendships."



Bloomington firefighters Leslie Erickson, Beth Neitzel and Diane Purcell.

For more details and registration information, visit the North Star Women's Firefighters Association Web site at www.nswfa.org.

A HEALTHY BLOOMINGTON FOR ALL



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

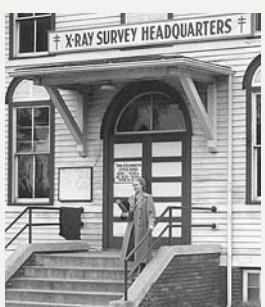
CELEBRATE YOUR HEALTH APRIL 7 - 13

IT USED to be that diseases from poor hygiene, nutrition and sanitation, poor maternal and infant health, and work hazards were at the forefront of public health in Bloomington. Yet with the advent of antibiotics, vaccinations and improved sanitation, these problems are almost obsolete. Today, chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, are the new public health challenges.

Originally established in 1948 to provide school nursing services, Bloomington Public Health became a community-based health division in 1960. By the end of the twentieth century, public health had become a complex partnership between governmental and nongovernmental organizations, academia and community members.

Currently, Bloomington Public Health has many services and programs and maintains relationships with a number of groups in order to protect the health of all Bloomington's citizens.

For more information, visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Public Health, or call Public Health 952-563-8900.



HUMAN SERVICES RESOURCES

RESIDENT INPUT NEEDED

HUMAN SERVICES is exploring the possibility of providing in-home services and concierge service, as well as starting a social group for residents. If you are a resident age 50 or older, care about health, wellness, arts, and cultural issues, and want to stay active in your community, Human Services would like your input. For more information, call Human Services Coordinator Tracy Smith at 952-563-4955.

CANCER PREVENTION

APRIL IS CANCER CONTROL MONTH

ALTHOUGH MUCH has been learned about prevention, early detection and treatment, cancer still accounts for nearly one-quarter of deaths in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease.

For information on Public Health's cancer prevention programs, such as the breast and cervical cancer screenings at Sage Women's Clinic, call 952-563-8900.



BEST PRACTICES FOR CANCER PREVENTION:

1. Quit smoking.
2. Practice sun-safe habits.
3. Adopt a physically active lifestyle.
4. Limit alcohol consumption.
5. Get regular check-ups.
6. Perform a breast cancer self-exam on a regular basis.

PROTECTING OUR FURRY FRIENDS

DON'T FORGET TO LICENSE YOUR PET

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON requires all dogs and cats, three months or older, to be licensed and vaccinated against rabies. The regulation of pets protects the health and safety of the community. The license tag attached to your pet's collar shows the animal has been vaccinated against rabies, proves ownership and allows the pet to be returned to you if it gets lost.

The annual license period is January 1 through December 31.

Applications are available for download on the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Pet licensing, or at the Licensing counter located on the first floor of the Civic Plaza. Please bring a copy of your pet's rabies certificate.

If you have just moved to Bloomington or if you have just acquired a new pet, you need to apply for a license within 30 days. If you have a new kitten or puppy, you need to apply after the pet receives its first rabies shot, usually at three months of age. If your pet has a current license from another city within the state of Minnesota, you may complete a new application, surrender the other license and pay a transfer fee.

For more information, contact Licensing at 952-563-8728.



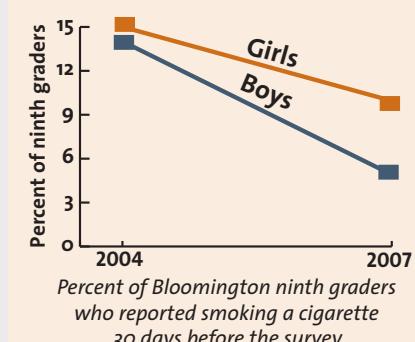
SURVEY SHEDS LIGHT ON TEEN DRUG USE

FEWER BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SMOKING



ACCORDING TO the results of a recent survey by the Minnesota Department of Education, fewer Bloomington high school students are smoking. Results show 5 percent of 9th grade boys and 10 percent of 9th grade girls reported smoking a cigarette 30 days before taking the survey. This is down from 14 percent and 15 percent for boys and girls, respectively, in 2004. See chart below.

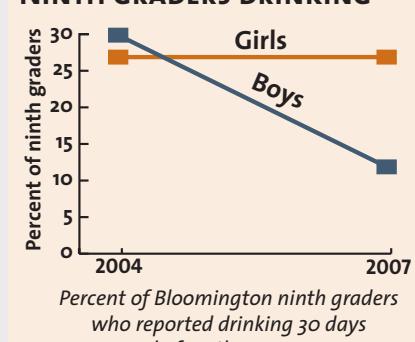
NINTH GRADERS SMOKING



Alcohol use by 9th grade boys is down 18 percent from 2004; 12 percent of 9th grade boys reported drinking alcohol within 30 days of taking the survey. There was no change in the drinking rate for 9th grade girls, with 27 percent reporting drinking alcohol within 30 days of taking the survey. See chart below.

Almost one-quarter of 12th grade boys and girls admitted to binge drinking within two weeks of taking the survey.

NINTH GRADERS DRINKING



The Minnesota Student Survey is administered every three years to students in grades 6, 9 and 12. It asks questions about tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, as well as sexual behaviors, dietary behaviors, physical activity and unintentional injuries, and violence. The survey is voluntary, confidential and anonymous.

The results are used to plan and evaluate community initiatives and prevention programming. For full survey results, visit: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/mss.

For more information, contact Youth Health Promotion Specialist Melissa Drews at 952-563-8901, or e-mail mdrews@ci.bloomington.mn.us.